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cases are cited as illustrating entire sections of the text rather than as supporting a single proposition. A feature which will commend the work to members of the bar remote from the larger libraries is the citation of the so-called Reporter System in addition to the several official state reports.

The author has, strange to say, been able to inject into this outline or digest a certain element of pleasing style in spite of the condensation of the written text into less than two hundred pages. The terse and incisive characteristics of the writer's style are well shown in the section distinguishing between pledge, chattel mortgage and lien. One cannot help wishing, however, that he had omitted his fifty-page discussion of Quasi-Bailees and devoted the space thus gained to the amplification of the principles involved in the real subject in hand. The chapter open to the most serious adverse criticism is the one discussing the post-office department, telegraph and telephone companies. It is entirely inadequate even for an outline.

The second volume is excellent. The choice of cases is discriminating and thoroughly intelligent. The portion devoted to cases on the law of carriers is especially satisfactory. Many of the old familiar leading cases are retained, but the editor has, with commendable independence, selected freely from the great body of recent cases. Perhaps in no subject could such a course be more advantageous than in the law of carriers. Economic principles have so influenced, and changing notions of public policy so moulded the legal conceptions obtaining in the consideration of public service companies and their relations to the public, as to make the cases of a generation ago obsolete on many topics, and a knowledge of the latest cases absolutely essential.

In view of the fact that we are living in the United States, and intend to practice law here, it is refreshing to see a preponderance of American cases over the English cases.

THE NATIONAL BANK ACT WITH AMENDMENTS, ANNOTATED BY J. M. GOULD. xvi, 288. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1904.

In this work Mr. GOULD according to the title page and preface undertakes to annotate and explain the national bank act and to cite all decisions, both state and federal, bearing on it up to September, 1904. As a matter of fact, the work is merely what its title indicates, and there is no explanation beyond the annotations. Sometimes the annotations fairly explain the statute, and at times the reverse will probably be found to be true. So the claim made on the title page can hardly be regarded as justified. Merely as an annotated act the work, like previous similar productions by Mr. Gould, will probably be found to be of considerable practical value, but only extended use can show whether the decisions are referred to as fully as is claimed. There are only 182 pages of text, but the appendices giving the rules of the American Banking Association and of the New York, Boston and Chicago Clearing Houses, together with the indices increase the size of the book by some 106 pages more. The work will undoubtedly prove a helpful working tool, but nothing more can be claimed for it, and probably nothing more was intended by its author.